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November 1, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

PROGRESS REPORT ON IMMIGRATION REFORM (ITEM NO. 34-B, BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2013)

This memorandum is to provide a progress report on immigration reform legislation, as instructed by the Board on February 5, 2013.

Senate

On June 27, 2013, the Senate passed S. 744, a comprehensive immigration reform bill, which includes increased border security and enforcement measures, legal immigration reforms, and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The bill passed with "aye" votes from 14 Republicans, including four Republicans who were part of the bipartisan "Gang of Eight" Senators, who played the lead role in drafting it.

House

As reported in the previous progress report, a bipartisan group of eight House members who had been attempting to draft a bipartisan House immigration reform bill abandoned that effort in September after all but one of the four Republicans left the group. Moreover, the House Republican leadership has indicated that it would not bring a comprehensive immigration reform bill, such as S. 744, to the House floor for a vote, but, instead, supports an incremental approach of moving narrower immigration bills, which have the support of the majority of House Republicans.

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On October 2, 2013, House Democrats introduced a comprehensive immigration reform bill (H.R. 15), which is modeled after the Senate-passed bill (S. 744) except that it replaces the Senate's border security language with provisions from H.R. 1417, the bipartisan border security bill, which the House Homeland Security Committee approved on a voice vote in May 2013. Unlike S. 744, H.R. 15 neither prescribes specific border security measures nor provides any funding for border security measures. Instead, it requires the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy and implementation plan to secure operational control of the border.

To date, H.R. 15 has been co-sponsored by 186 House Democrats, but by only three House Republicans -- Representatives Denham (CA), Valadao (CA), and Ros-Lehtinen (FL) -- have co-sponsored the bill. On October 28, 2013, a spokesman for Senator Rubio (R-FL), who helped to craft S. 744, announced that Senator Rubio supported the House Republican leadership's strategy of moving piecemeal immigration bills rather than a comprehensive immigration reform bill, such as S. 744 or H.R. 15.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:MT:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel